

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-41, 43-55, 59-70, 72-82, 84-121, and 123-150 are pending in the present application. Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection under U.S.C 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-14, 16-41, 43-48, 61-70, 72-82, 84-115, and 126-150 as being allegedly unpatentable over Patent Application No. WO # 97/06637 issued to Gula (Gula, hereinafter) in view of US. Patent No. 6,005,938 issued to Banker et al. (Banker, herein after), and further in view of US. Patent No. 5,585,858 issued to Harper et al. (Harper, herein after). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Per independent Claims 1, 70, 136, and 143, Applicants respectfully submit that Gula does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Applicants agree with the Examiner that Neither Gula nor Banker discloses Applicants claimed limitations of “independently receiving and storing compressed and encrypted image and audio information associated with at last one image program and at least one audio program,” “independently distributing the stored information to one or more auditoriums,” and/or “independently decrypting and decompressing the image and audio information in each auditoriums,” as claimed in Claims 1 and 70.

Applicants, however, respectfully submit that Harper does not disclose these limitations either. The Examiner has not shown where in Harper these limitations are allegedly disclosed. The Examiner contents that “Harper teaches multiple audio programs, which may be associated with a particular audio program . . .” Applicants respectfully submit that neither in col. 3, lines 37-57, col. 5, lines 44-46, and col. 11, lines 25-30, nor anywhere else in Harper is there any mention of the above mentioned claimed limitations.

Applicants further agree with the Examiner that neither Gula nor Banker discloses “selectively play one of the at least one audio program in synchronization with the presented image program,” as claimed in Claims 1 and 70. Applicants, however, respectfully submit that Harper does not disclose these limitations either. On the

contrary, Harper discloses “a plurality of additional audio signals and/or graphics data for providing interactivity.” (Harper, Col. 5, lines 44-46). This statement neither teaches nor reasonably suggests the claimed limitation of independently receiving a plurality of audio programs associated with a video program, and selectively playing one of the audio programs to be played with the image program. Such selection maybe based on the user’s preferred language in which the selected video program has to be viewed, for example.

Therefore, since the cited reference, singly or in combination, do not disclose at least the above-mentioned claimed limitations, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

2. Rejection under U.S.C 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 49-55, 59-60, 116-121, and 123-125 as being allegedly unpatentable over Patent Application No. WO # 97/06637 issued to Gula (Gula, hereinafter), US. Patent No. 6,005,938 issued to Banker et al. (Banker, herein after), and US. Patent No. 5,585,858 issued to Harper et al. (Harper, herein after), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,521,631 issued to Budow et al. (Budow, hereinafter). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, singly or in combination, discloses or suggests the claimed invention, as discussed above in connection with the independent claims 1, 70, 136, and 143. Therefore, since the cited references do not disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned claimed limitations, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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